

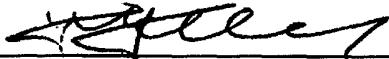
R E M A R K S

Applicant has detected an obvious error in claim 1. As pointed out in the amendment filed in response to the Office letter of January 31, 2002, claim 1 was amended to incorporate therein the concentration of the components found in the respective dependent claims. The reducing agent concentration was set forth in (canceled) claim 9, where it is given as 0.1-10% while the detergent concentration was set forth in (canceled) claim 7, where it is given as 50 to 30%. Through an inadvertent error, these concentration values were reversed in the previously filed amendment, and this obvious error is corrected with the present amendment.

Entry of the amendment is accordingly respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ELKE HELFTENBEIN

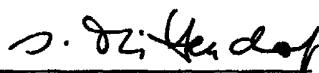


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Enclosure: Marked-up copy of changes

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP Issue Fee, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 9, 2003.



Ingrid Mittendorf

MARKED-UP COPY OF CHANGES:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (twice amended). A blood withdrawing vessel containing a nucleic acid-stabilizing aqueous solution for stabilizing nucleic acids in the withdrawn blood directly upon contact with the solution, the solution comprising the following components:

- a guanidinium salt in a concentration of 1 to 8.0 M;
- a buffer substance in a concentration of 10 to 300 mM;
- a reducing agent in a concentration of [5 to 30] 0.1 to 10%, by wt; and
- a detergent in a concentration of [0.1 to 10] 5 to 30%, by wt.